A

DISCOVERY

OF

The trecherous Attempts of the Cavaliers,

To have practised

THE BETRAYING

OF

Nottingham Castle

Into their hands.

And how Colonell *Hutchinson* the Governour thereof was promised to be made the best Lord in Nottingham shire, and to have ten thousand pounds, and the Command of the said Castle confirmed to him and his heirs, if he would deliver it into them: And their large offers to his Brother, and divers other Commanders

With their constant Resolution never to betray the Trust the Parliament hath reposed in them: nor detain the so just and reasonable Desires they have expressed therein.

In a Letter sent from Nottingham a Member of the House of Commons, and some more things with it.

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SIR,

I Have thrice beene tempted upon the offers of great rewards and honours, to betray this Castle. The first was by Sir *Richard Biron*, another by M. *Sutton*, both which I acquainted the Committee withall, and returned scornfull refusals unto: but now being this third time sollicited unto it, I thought it my duty to acquaint those that have here entrusted me, both for their satisfaction and my own discharge, if any thing should happen to my prejudice hereafter; for I expect that now they see their attempts in this kind fruitlesse, they will as basely endeavour to blemish with false aspersions that honesty which with bribes they cannot corrupt; be pleased therefore to understand the whole proceeding of this last offer and the occasion of it, which was this.

Colonell *Dacre*, one that was formerly in the North, a familiar friend and acquaintance of my brothers, sent to me to desire that he might have the liberty to see him, to which, with the knowledge of the Committee, I gave consent; and then being in his company, desired some words in private with my brother, pretending a desire to be satisfied in some doubts of his concerning this warre; but some accidents then falling out, he was prevented of that private conference, and therefore desired that my brother some two dayes after would come to his quarters; but he, to prevent all suspitions, would not goe but writ him a deniall: after which Colonell *Dacre* writ very earnestly to him to come againe, and invited Captaine *Poulton* to come with him; but my brother would not, only with the leave of the Committee sent Captain *Poulton* to excuse

cuse it, of whose going we intended to make such use, as if we could, to discover how the enemy lay, and what their intentions were: so soon as he came thither, he was most kindly entertained, and Colonell *Dacre* taking him aside, told him, that now the Governour of *Nottingham* and his brother had an occasion offerd to gain themselves great honour, to do the King very good service, and to receive a great recompence for so doing; which he demanding how that was, the Colonell told him, that if I would deliver up the Castle, the command of it should be confirmed to me and my heires, I should receive ten thousand pound and be well assured of it before ever I delivered the Castle, and that I should bee made the best Lord in *Nottingham* shire, that my brother should have three thousand pound to deliver the Bridges, and that Cap. *Poulton* should have two thousand pound to get this effected; to which Capt. *Poulton* answered, that he thought it was an impossible thing, for the Governour had formerly been tempted with such like offers, and had refused them, that we all scorned so base an act, and that for his own part he would starve and rot before he would betray his trust: the Colonell was further importunate with him, to move it to me, and that you may, saith he, be better assured I do not this without Commission, and then pul'd out of his pocket a paper written with these words, or to this effect; *These are to authorize Colonell* Dacre *to treat with Colonell* Hutchinson *and Lievtenant Colonell* Hutchinson *for the surrendring up of the Castle and Bridges of Nottingham for the service of his Maiesty, and to make them large promises which shall be performed:* and this paper signed with *W. Newcastle* at the bottome: and he further desired, that he might but come to the Castle to speak with me, when Captaine *Poulton* told him there was no hope of obtaining that, he entreated him that he would but deliver the message to me, which he told him he would doe; and the Colonell told him, that if I would not deliver the Castle, yet if he himself would but leave us, and come away, he should immediately have a Regiment of

Morse delivered into his command, and earnestly pressed that I would send him an answer; which presently after both my brother and I did, the Copies whereof I have here sent you. There were also two Officers of Captain *Whites* Troup, whom we sent along with Captain *Poulton*, whom Colonell *Dacre* also took aside, and made large * offers, both to Capt. *White*, and them, if they would procure him to turne to their Side; But Capt. *White* hath so often scorned and refused such unworthy offers, that this did but increase his contempt of them, whose faith and honesty hath beene apparently great in this cause. I confesse, had it not been for drawing a scandall or jealousie on my self, I would have gone so farre as to have gotten the Propositions under Coll. *Dacre* his hand, if not under the Marquesse his hand; but this I durst not doe, least my own honest intentions should in the mean time have been mistaken: I therefore thought it sufficient to make it presently knowne to the Committee, and so to acquaint you with it, and withall to assure you, that were I certaine we should utterly be deserted and left (as for any reliefe I yet heare of we are like to be) (our Souldiers being 30. weekes behinde with pay, and the whole Country now possessed by the enemie) yet I would maintaine my faithfulnesse to the Parliament, so long as I have one drop of blood left in me; and when I am forced to the last extremity, I am confident God wil give me strength to maintaine this Christian resolution, that I have by Covenant both with God and man bound my selfe unto; which is, that I will rather chuse to die ten thousand deaths with a clear conscience to God, and an honest heart to my Country, then to sell my soule for the purchase of my life, and all the wealth and honours this world can bestow upon me. Your sonnes are both well here in the Castle, and I heare your wife is so in the Country; onely I heare your goods and corne are wholly plundred. What service I am able to doe for you here, if you please you may command

Your friend and servant,

Nott: Castle, Decemb. 18. 1643. John Hutchinson.

* The offers to Cap. *White* was 10000 pounds, & 3000. to his Officers to procure it.

Postscript.

Sir, just as my Letters were going to Colonell *Dacre*, there came one from him to Captaine *Poulton*; the copie of which, with Captaine *Poultons* answer, I have here also sent you, the originall I preserve by me as a testimony of their unworthie profers.

To Colonell Dacre.

Sir,

YOur propositions sent to me on Wednesday last by Captaine *Poulton* (for which you shewed him my Lord Newcastles Commission) were so unworthy of a Gentleman, so wicked, and base, that once I thought in contempt and scorne to have forgotten them; yet lest my silence may receive too favourable an interpretation from you, know and tell your Generall, that set you on this brave imployment, that I abhorre the thought of Treason to my Countrie, though I might thereby grow as great for wickednesse as he; tell him Ile weare no title but what my faith and vertue purchaseth, and Ile leave my children an honest, though a small inheritance, to whom my spotlesse name, not tainted with the foule blot of Treason, shall be an ornament, when the remembrance of all treacherous Apostates shall rot with infamie; and I doubt not but my gracious Prince, once cured of his mistake, will reward my loyall constant faithfulnesse to his Regall Power, and Parliament, with a larger recompence then he propounds for my corruption: if hee doe not, vertue is its owne reward. Tell your most Excellent Generall, his threats and promises are both alike contemptible to me; I feare not those, and I hate these. I fight not to repaire a broken fortune, but to maintain a just quarrell; in which may that man perish, and fall lower then the depth of hell, that can be hired to prove unfaithfull; tell him;

him, if you dare, that it had beene an imployment more beseeming you, or any Gentleman, had he sent you with ten thousand armed men, to assault our well defended wals; then with so many pieces of contemned gold, to lay your siege against an honest heart. I could honour an enemie for performing brave and gallant things; but such attempts as these will render your persons as odious to all honest men, as your rebellion: and I am sorie you should undertake so base a service, as to deserve the just neglect and scorne of

Nott: Castle, Decem. 16. *Iohn Hutchinson.*

1643.

Postscript.

Pray Sir send mee word what you should have had for the procuring this, that I may know at what rate the enemie valueth this Castle.

To Colonell Dacre.

Sir,

YOu have now convinced me of an errour, I once thought it possible that some rash mis-led young men might still among the Cavaliers have retained a fierce of Gallantry and Honour, though no Religion; and have been enriched with those morall vertues which made the Heathen famous; such a one I beleeved you to be; but since you can attempt to buy me to so great a villany, as you did in your late propositions by Captain *Poulton*, I must needs be perswaded, you would never offer me what you your self would not have done: 'Tis I confesse strange to me you could imagine, that a Christian, a Gentleman, or a Commonwealths-man would ever prove such a Villain, as for a little gaudie dirt to sell his soule, his honour, and his Countrey; perish that most contemned gain, with all that can accept or offer it: *Dacre*, 'twas base in you to think so of me, I am sure you cannot so mis-interpret any act of mine, as to receive from it the least ground of encouragement to such an opinion; and had you known my

Bro-

Brother, you would have thought it easier for you your selfe alone to have conquered all the men now fighting in the kingdome, than to corrupt that guard of vertues which protect his constant soule from treacherous thoughts. Did you think men of sence will part with reall Honour for a Title? you are not capable of a religious consideration; or I could tell you, That our souls (redeemed with an unvaluable price) are by you most unequally valued at a poore inconsiderable summe of money; but your thoughts cannot reach heaven: look upon earth, and give me an example where ever any Traitor preserved his foul name from an horrid blot of infamy on him and on his house for ever? How can you think, He that by you will be corrupted to betray anothers trust, will not by another be again corrupted to betray yours? Keep your despised Coyne to tempt some fraile waiting-woman, it may work with her to procure such honest things as you affect; but desist these base attempts on men of nobler spirits, with whom they will but render you as contemptible as your offers. Consider the unworthy message you sent, and blush at the remembrance of your guilt in it, and if yet you have so much worth left in you, repent the injury you did to him that was your Friend. Farewell that name for evermore between us.

Trent Bridges,
Dec. 16. 1643. GEORGE HUTCHINSON.

To his truly noble friend Captaine Poulton.

Noble Sir,

I Was in hopes to have waited on you this day, but indeed I received an Expresse last night from my Lord Generall, wherein I am commanded to wait on his Excellencie neere *Chesterfield* this day. Sir, I hope you remember the businesse I spoke to you of when you were at my quarter; I will engage my selfe upon my life, that what I promised shall bee really performed; if you please but to consider and truly value the businesse, I make no question but I may obtain my desires:

which

which I will assure you is not for any particular ends, but in the first place to serve my gracious King, and then my friends, which I will assure you I shall ever esteeme your Lieutenant Colonell and your selfe to bee; desiring very much to heare from you by this bearer; wishing us all to agree, for upon my word it troubles me to thinke, that all honest men should not be of one side. Which the Lord grant that we may all bee, I remaining alwayes, Sir,

Wattnell, Friday morning the 15. of Decemb.

Your most humble servant,
Richard Dacre.

My humble service to my truly noble friend your Lieutenant Colonell, and tell him I wish him as my owne soule.

To Colonell Dacre.

SIr, had the Cavalliers since found out a way to performe their promises better then they did at *Bristow, Gainsborough*, &c. you might have had some hopes of a young man whose best fortune is his sword: but so unworthie have their dealings ever beene, so little faith and honour doe you give testimonie of, in tempting me to act such things as gallant men would not accept, if offered; that I must tell you these unworthy wayes you take to advance your cause, are but so many confirmations to me in this I doe maintaine against you. He that fights for honour, not for plunder, to which the Dutch Prince hath well trained all your armies, would scorne to receive his enemies Fort on any conditions, but such as were purchased by his prevailing valour, not undermining treachery: to which, Sir, I am as unflexible, as you to worth and goodnesse. The Governour I beleeve and his brother have returned you their answers; and you may in this receive the negative resolution of

Nott: Castle, Decemb. the 16. 1634.

Thomas Poulton.

FINIS.

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A RELATION

Of the Entrance of the

Swediſh Armie

Into the Territories of the King of *DENMARK*;

And the taking of ſome notable Towns therein; the ſaid Swedes having denounciated open War againſt the King of *Denmarke*, for his unjuſt Taxations and Dealings with them.

Extracted out of a Letter from a Merchant-Adventurer in the City of Hamburgh.

Wherein we may take notice of Gods providence in fruſtrating the King of *Denmarks* Deſigne to aſſiſt our King againſt the PARLIAMENT.

Publiſhed by Order.

LONDON,
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